

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2013

323

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We believe the Federal Communications Commission can help increase the deployment of wireless services in rural America during the upcoming broadcast television incentive auction. Congress passed the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act to require the Commission, among other things, to consider assigning wireless licenses of various geographic sizes as a factor for forward auction.

We support the adoption of the recent proposal for smaller license areas called Partial Economic Areas (PEAs), or a similar proposal, designed to increase the participation of small and rural carriers during the forward auction. The ability of small and rural carriers to provide spectrum-based services hastens the build-out of wireless services to consumers in rural America.

The disparate terrain and disbursed population throughout rural America make it challenging for some wireless communications providers to justify the necessary investment to bring next generation wireless services to these areas. Therefore, this auction could spur increased competition and drive 21st century economic development in rural communities throughout the country if a broad array of providers is able to gain access to spectrum that covers rural areas.

The dramatic and impressive increase in wireless device adoption over the past decade is a testament to the innovation that drives the American economy. Many of our constituents rely on the various functions of "smart" devices to get the latest news or communicate with family and friends. But the ease with which we utilize these devices while we are in Washington, DC is not always the case when we return to our rural districts. The Commission has an opportunity to take an important step forward to fill this detrimental geographical gap by adopting the PEA or a similar license map.

Adequate wireless coverage, efficiency, and speed is no longer a luxury. It is a necessity for all Americans.

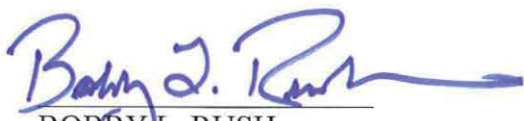
Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you on enhancing wireless capabilities and development in rural America.

Sincerely,



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress


ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress



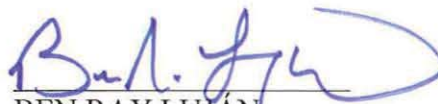
BOBBY L. RUSH

Member of Congress



DORIS O. MATSUI

Member of Congress



BEN RAY LUJÁN

Member of Congress



JERRY MCNERNEY

Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

Thank you sharing your views on the importance of adopting license areas in the Incentive Auction that are designed to increase the participation of small and rural wireless providers. The Incentive Auction is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand the benefits of mobile wireless coverage and competition to consumers across the Nation – particularly consumers in rural areas – offering more choices of wireless providers, lower prices, and higher quality mobile services.

The Incentive Auction *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* proposed using Economic Areas (EAs) to license the 600 MHz Band spectrum. Late last year, parties proposed a new, smaller geographic license area – Partial Economic Areas (PEAs). I recently circulated a draft Report & Order to my fellow Commissioners that would adopt PEAs as the license area for all licenses in the forward auction. This proposal would facilitate competition and the participation of small and rural wireless providers in every market.

Thank you again for apprising me of your views on this important matter. I look forward to working with you toward our mutual goal of a successful auction for the benefit the American public.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Doris O. Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you sharing your views on the importance of adopting license areas in the Incentive Auction that are designed to increase the participation of small and rural wireless providers. The Incentive Auction is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand the benefits of mobile wireless coverage and competition to consumers across the Nation – particularly consumers in rural areas – offering more choices of wireless providers, lower prices, and higher quality mobile services.

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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
U.S. House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you sharing your views on the importance of adopting license areas in the Incentive Auction that are designed to increase the participation of small and rural wireless providers. The Incentive Auction is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand the benefits of mobile wireless coverage and competition to consumers across the Nation – particularly consumers in rural areas – offering more choices of wireless providers, lower prices, and higher quality mobile services.

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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you sharing your views on the importance of adopting license areas in the Incentive Auction that are designed to increase the participation of small and rural wireless providers. The Incentive Auction is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand the benefits of mobile wireless coverage and competition to consumers across the Nation – particularly consumers in rural areas – offering more choices of wireless providers, lower prices, and higher quality mobile services.

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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

Thank you sharing your views on the importance of adopting license areas in the Incentive Auction that are designed to increase the participation of small and rural wireless providers. The Incentive Auction is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand the benefits of mobile wireless coverage and competition to consumers across the Nation – particularly consumers in rural areas – offering more choices of wireless providers, lower prices, and higher quality mobile services.

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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
U.S. House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you sharing your views on the importance of adopting license areas in the Incentive Auction that are designed to increase the participation of small and rural wireless providers. The Incentive Auction is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand the benefits of mobile wireless coverage and competition to consumers across the Nation – particularly consumers in rural areas – offering more choices of wireless providers, lower prices, and higher quality mobile services.

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Tom Wheeler